

**SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA
COUNTY OF MENDOCINO**



Press Release
(For immediate release: August 21, 2006)

**Mendocino County Superior Court
Expands Court Hours**

The Mendocino County Superior Court is pleased to announce that it will be expanding the hours that court offices are open to the public. Effective Tuesday, September 5, 2006, court offices will be open from 8:00 am until 4:00pm.

On top of historic under-funding, the recession of 2001-2002 drastically reduced resources available to the California trial courts, requiring many of them to ration services. Los Angeles closed 29 courtrooms and Butte closed every Friday. The Mendocino Court shortened its public hours, closing at 2:30pm each day. This made it harder for individuals to file documents or obtain information because of long waits for service by court users.

The Mendocino County Superior Court is also planning to expand public access by establishing a self-help center and a Night Court for small claims cases. "Our goal is to broaden and facilitate access for all persons, including the unrepresented, low-income, disabled, and non-English-speaking individuals," explains Court Executive Officer Ben Stough. "Beginning this fall, parties will have the option of scheduling their small claims trials after normal business hours at the Ukiah Courthouse. We anticipate that Night Court will make it easier for people who work during the day to participate in court proceedings."

For additional information regarding this press release,
please contact Court Administration at: (707) 463-4693.